

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00468 251308Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /068 W
-----251404Z 036667 /65

R 251220Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1253
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, RO, GR, BU, YO, UR

SUBJ: ROMANIAN VIEW OF BALKAN STATE OF PLAY

REF: ANKARA 311; ATHENS 232

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF JANUARY 24 CALLED ON MFA BALKAN SPECIALISTS DIAONU AND CONSTANTIN FOR RUN DOWN ON CURRENT BALKAN SITUATION. ROMANAINS ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBILITY OF SECOND BALKAN CONFERENCE IN TURKEY PRIOR TO BELGRADE CSCE MEETING, SAID TURKISH AND BULGARIAN PROPOSALS FOR MULTILATERAL PROJECTS WERE STILL OUTSTANDING AND HOPED TO OVERCOME BULGRIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESISTANCE VIA PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD BE IN GOB'S OWN ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST. END SUMMARY.

2. ROMANIANS ARE HOPEFUL THAT SECOND BALKAN CONFERENCE CAN BE HELD PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER FULL-SCALE BELGRADE CSCE MEETING, BUT NOT SO SURE IT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE JUNE PREPARATORY MEETING. TURKISH AND

BULGARIAN PROPOSALS FOR MULTILATERAL BALKAN PROJECTS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING, BUT TURKS HAVE SAID THAT THEIRS WILL BE READY IN NEAR FUTURE. GOR FEELS FOUR OF FIVE BALKAN STATES ARE AGREED ON TURKISH MEETING. PROBLEM, AS USUAL, IS BULGARIA. NEVERTHELESS, ROMANIANS ARE HOPEFUL THAT BY IDENTIFYING MINIMUM NUMBER OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL MULTILATERAL BALKAN PROJECTS, BULGARIANS WOULD SEE MERIT IN THEIR PARTICIPATION. CONSTANTIN MENTIONED COORDINATED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NORTH-SOUTH EUROPEAN HIGHWAY LINKS AS AN EXAMPLE OF A PROJECT WHICH WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN GOB'S OWN INTEREST, GIVEN ITS COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF SUFFICIENTLY MODERN ROAD CONNECTIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. DIACONU MUSED THAT "AFTER ALL, BULGARIAN RELUCTANCE WAS NOT INTRINSIC, BUT DUE PRIMARILY TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCES." BOTH WERE AWARE OF GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' LETTER TO ZHIVKOV, BUT SAID THEY DID KNOW CONTENT OF BULGARIAN REPLY.

3. ASKED ABOUT PARTICIPATION OF OTHER STATES, E.G., HUNGARY, IN VARIOUS PROJECTS WHOSE SCOPE MIGHT EXTEND BEYOND BALKANS, ROMANIANS REPLIED THAT FIRST PRIORITY WAS FOR BALKAN STATES TO IDENTIFY THEIR OWN COMMON INTERESTS WITHOUT PRESENCE OF "OUTSIDERS". AT LATER STAGE, HOWEVER, COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES WAS, OF COURSE, NOT EXCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONVERSATION THAT ROMANIAN INTEREST IN BALKANS IS AS STRONG AS EVER EVEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUGH THEY MAY PREFER THAT OTHERS TAKE THE LEAD FOR THE PRESENT. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN EMBOFF MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY SPECULATING ABOUT BUCHAREST AS POSSIBLE SITE FOR NEXT BALKAN MEETING, DIACONU SMILED AND REPLIED THAT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS ANOTHER SITE WOULD BE PREFERABLE AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, ROMANIANS MAY BE SOMEWHAT TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BULGARIAN PARTICIPATION. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH BULGARIAN EMBOFFS HERE, THEY HAVE TAKEN VERY STRONG POSITION AGAINST A SECOND CONFERENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR MULTILATERAL BALKAN COOPERATION. IN ADDITION, AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF FROM BELGRADE REPORTS THAT YUGOSLAVS THERE HAVE TOLD THEM BULGARIANS HAVE FLATLY REFUSED TO ATTEND ANY SECOND CONFERENCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUCHAR00468
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 311, 77 ATHENS 232
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3515227
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN VIEW OF BALKAN STATE OF PLAY
TAGS: PFOR, TU, RO, GR, BU, YO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/de7d9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009